

April 12, 2000

Janet Henney, M.D.  
Commissioner, FDA  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

5905 '00 MAY -9 P1:50

RE: Importance of Olestra Labeling

Dear Dr. Henney:

I received word from the Center for Science in the Public Interest that the FDA was considering removing the warning labels from foods containing Olestra. I am writing this letter to urge you to not remove the warning labels. In fact, please make the labels larger and strengthen the verbiage.

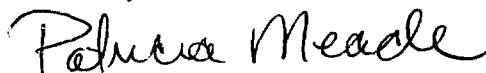
I believe consumers need to be warned about Olestra, because I suffered fairly severe side effects after consuming Pringles potato chips with Olestra. I ate one serving a day for four days in a row and subsequently became quite ill with severe diarrhea, anal leakage, and very painful cramping. In some ways, I only had myself to blame because I read the warning label and figured "well, I'm made of hearty stock, so I'm sure I won't have any side effects." But, if the warning label hadn't been on the package, I probably wouldn't have stopped eating the chips. It was only when my symptoms matched what the warning label said that I figured out why I was sick.

Once the Olestra got out of my system, I was fine. I have never eaten anything made with Olestra again, nor will I ever. I warned everyone I knew to heed the warning label.

Please don't remove the warning label. Again, if anything, make it larger and strengthen the wording. In our diet-crazed society, people (like me) will do anything to get full flavor for fewer calories. But in the case of Olestra, that benefit comes at much too high a price. I'm a healthy, 32 year old woman, and it made me violently ill. I hate to think what this product might do to children, or people who are not so healthy. Please help consumers make an educated choice – and, like I said, I don't think I would have stopped eating the product as soon as I did if the warning label hadn't been there. I might have really endangered my health with dehydration, loss of potassium, etc., if I had been sick for much longer.

Thank you for helping to keep American consumers safe.

Sincerely,



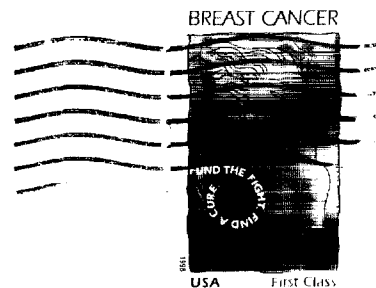
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